

PATENT
2832-0139P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hyoun Jin KIM et al. Conf.: 9531

Appl. No.: 09/895,154 Group: 1746

Filed: July 2, 2001 Examiner: PERRIN, J

For: DRAWER-TYPE WASHING MACHINE AND LOCKING
METHOD THEREOF

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 2, 2003

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Reply to Restriction/Election Requirement in the above-identified application.

- The enclosed document is being transmitted via the Certificate of Mailing provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.
- Petition for _____ month(s) extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). \$0.00 for the extension of time.
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
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Attachment(s)

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For: DRAWER-TYPE WASHING MACHINE AND LOCKING METHOD THEREOF

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 2, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated June 3, 2003, the following election and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has made a requirement for restriction between the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-11, drawn to a washing machine, classified in class 068, subclass 12.26; and

Group II: Claim 12, drawn to a locking method, classified in class 008, subclass 158.

ELECTION

In order to comply with the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, directed to claims 1-11, for prosecution in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date, if so desired.

This requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to meet the required burden of showing that the groups of claims are independent and distinct, as required by law. 35 USC §121 specifically states that the Commissioner may require the application to be restricted if it contains two or more "independent and distinct" inventions claimed in one application. 37 CFR §1.141 and §1.142 further repeat the language that the two or more inventions must be "independent and distinct".

MPEP §802.01 provides specific definitions of the meaning of the terms "independent" and "distinct". MPEP §802.01 states that the terms "independent" and "distinct" do not mean the same thing, but in fact have very different